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# U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg to visit Roger Williams University

Her Jan. 30 “fireside chat” with Judge Selya will mark the eighth time a high court justice has addressed RWU School of Law students



Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg will visit RWU Law on Jan. 30. Photo courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.

**August 31, 2017**

**BRISTOL, R.I.** – U.S. Supreme Court Justice [Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#) will visit the Roger Williams University [School of Law](#) on Jan. 30.

Justice Ginsburg will take part in a “fireside chat” with 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Senior Judge Bruce M. Selya at 10:30 a.m. in Room 283 – the appellate courtroom that will be named for Selya in October.

“What Rhode Island can look forward to is a visit from a woman who is both a thought leader in this country – a historic figure in her own right – and someone who every person in this state would be pleased and proud to have for a neighbor,” said Judge Selya, vice chairman of the RWU School of Law board of directors. “The objective will be to give her an opportunity to expound on matters that will be of interest to law students and law faculty, to talk about how she goes about her job, and to offer reflections on her life experience.”

Justice Ginsburg's visit will mark the eighth time that a sitting or retired U.S. Supreme Court justice has addressed RWU School of Law students. Justice Anthony M. Kennedy gave the law school's first commencement address in 1996, and law students have since heard from Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. (2008), Justice Antonin Scalia (2008), Justice Stephen G. Breyer (2011), Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. (2012), Justice Elena Kagan (2013) and retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (2013).

"Roger Williams University is devoted to strengthening society through engaged teaching and learning," RWU President Donald J. Farish said. "So it is a true honor to host a jurist who has strengthened society throughout her career as a lawyer, as a law professor and now as a Supreme Court justice, weighing in on some of the most important matters of our time."

"It is hard to overstate the impact Justice Ginsburg has had on American law and specifically on gender equality," said Michael J. Yelnosky, dean of the RWU School of Law. "Before she became a judge, she brought cases before the Supreme Court that first established the principle that government discrimination against women violated the Constitution's equal protection clause. As a Supreme Court justice, she and her colleagues have built on that foundation a jurisprudence ensuring women 'equal opportunity to aspire, achieve, participate in and contribute to society based on their individual talents and capacities.' "

Judge Selya said Justice Ginsburg "is perfectly capable of taking firm stands and holding them," but she expresses those views in a reasonable way that does not antagonize those on the other side of an issue. "In terms of her style and her approach to the job, she is in many ways the model of what an appellate judge should be," he said. "She does her homework. She is thoughtful. She is civil to the lawyers and litigants who appear before her. She expresses her opinion very clearly. And when she dissents, she does so forcefully but respectfully."

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